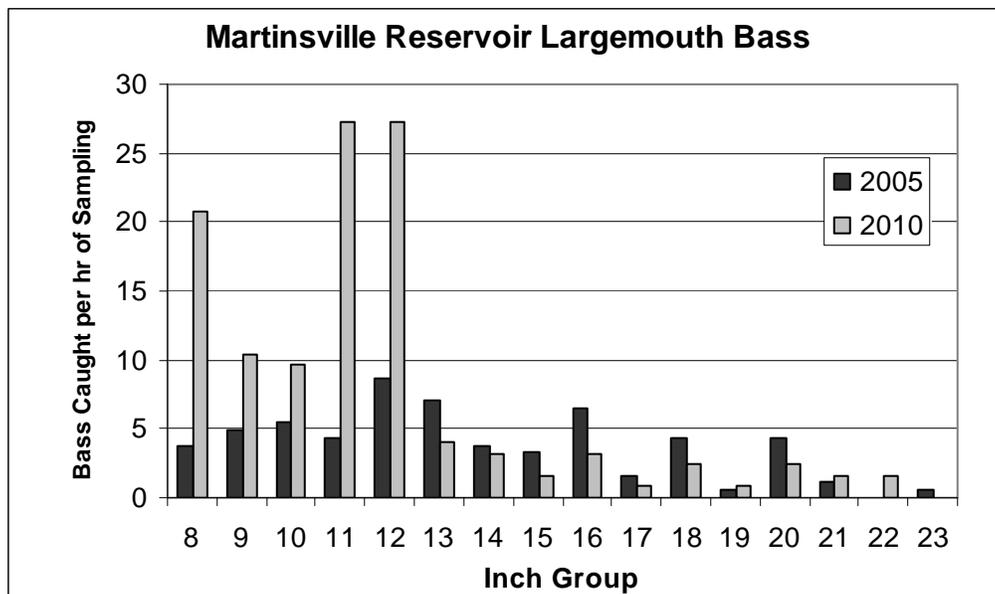




Martinsville Reservoir (Beaver Creek Reservoir) 2011

Martinsville Reservoir is a 175-acre impoundment located just north of the city of Martinsville, Virginia. The impoundment is owned and controlled by the city of Martinsville for water supply while the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries manage the fishery. The most popular sportfish species are largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, and yellow perch. Fish surveys conducted during 2010 showed that the fishery in Martinsville Reservoir was in good condition.

The largemouth bass population at Martinsville Reservoir had a limited number of adult size fish. One and two year old fish dominated the reservoir, which is an indication of over harvest. Growth for these fish was sufficient to add additional fish in the larger size groups so the 12 inch minimum size limit on bass was increased to a 14 inch minimum in 2002. As a result, the number of bass over 12 inches has doubled but the bass population is approaching an unbalanced condition with potentially too many smaller bass and growth rates are declining. New regulations may be instituted to keep the bass population more balanced. However, there are still nice bass (up to 22 inches) available but these larger fish may not be available in the future if growth rates continue to decline.



The Crappie population is comprised primarily of black crappie. Numerous black crappie were collected during the 2010 sampling. White crappie are present but in very low numbers and are concentrated in the extreme upper end of the reservoir. Most crappie collected in 2010 were less than 10 inches in length. This crappie fishery can vary

due to cyclical reproductive success and heavy harvest rates. Anglers can expect good fishing for crappie in the next several years due to recent good younger year classes present. Most crappie are found around structure, such as beaver lodges and fallen trees. Crappie anglers should concentrate their efforts in these areas for best results. However, crappie may concentrate in deeper water away from shoreline cover during the summer.

Catch of crappie per hour of sampling in 2005 and 2010 at Martinsville Reservoir.

Inch Group	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Catch per hr 2010	39	27	4	18	13	2	0	1
Catch per hr 2005	2	11	16	10	2	0	1	0

Bluegill are a member of the sunfish family and are the most abundant species of sunfish in Martinsville Reservoir. Redbreast sunfish and redear sunfish are also present but do not represent a significant portion of the sunfish population. Gizzard shad are present in this reservoir and sunfish rarely grow to good sizes when shad are present and Martinsville Reservoir is no exception.

Channel catfish were traditionally stocked as fingerling fish around 3-4 inches and provided very limited fishing opportunities. Channel catfish are now stocked at larger sizes averaging around 8-10 inches, which has improved their survival and the fishery. Catfish are stocked every other year and the best fishing occurs within several months after stocking but survival is adequate to provide good catfish opportunities each year.

Yellow perch were first sampled in this reservoir in 1987 and the population has been expanding since that time. Currently, the yellow perch populations is sufficient to provide a fishery with good numbers of fish available in the 8-10 inch range. The highest densities of yellow perch are in the lower half of the reservoir.

Since this reservoir has motor restrictions, most fish species are exploited at a higher rate in the lower and more accessible areas near the boat ramp. Anglers that have the time and battery power to get the upper end of the reservoir will be rewarded with more opportunities to catch quality fish. Since the water in this reservoir is usually very clear, most fish will be easily spooked. Anglers may want to use light line and keep as much distance possible between their boat and the structure they are fishing.

The city of Martinsville maintains a park at Martinsville Reservoir; this park contains picnic facilities and a boat ramp. Use of the park and reservoir are restricted to the hours of sunrise to sunset. A boat permit is required to launch boats. The permit is \$2 per day or \$10 per calendar year. Permits can be acquired from the reservoir office or by calling Darrell Hammock at 276-656-5179. Boaters are restricted to electric motor use only. The reservoir can be accessed by taking Rt. 108 from Rt. 174 out of Collinsville or Martinsville.